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Letter dated 20 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and a press statement on the situation in Somalia, adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 73rd meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 19 March 2007 (see annexes).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nana **Effah-Apenteng**
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
Representative of the Current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex I to the letter dated 20 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 73rd meeting of the Peace and Security Council on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 73rd meeting held on 16 and 19 March 2007, adopted the following decision on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire [PSC/PR/2(LXXIII)];

2. **Recalls** decision Assembly/AU/Dec.145(VII) adopted by the 8th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, on 29 and 30 January 2007, urging the Ivorian parties, with the support of ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community, to redouble efforts to bring the peace process to its logical conclusion on the basis of resolution 1721 (2006) of the United Nations Security Council, through direct dialogue as proposed by President Laurent Gbagbo and supported by ECOWAS and the African Union;

3. **Welcomes** the signing, on 4 March 2007, of the Ouagadougou Political Accord, between President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, Secretary-General of the *Forces Nouvelles*, under the facilitation of President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, in his capacity as the current Chairperson of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS. In this respect, Council pays tribute to President Compaoré for his tireless efforts which made it possible to successfully conclude the direct dialogue;

4. **Commends** the Ivorian parties signatory to the Ouagadougou Political Accord for the spirit of compromise and the sense of responsibility they have displayed. Council **urges** all the Ivorian political forces to support the Accord with a view to promoting reconciliation, as well as facilitating the return of lasting peace in Côte d'Ivoire;

5. **Requests** the signatory parties to implement, in good faith and in accordance with the timetable annexed to the Accord, the commitments entered into, in order, with the support of the international community, including the United Nations and its Security Council, to speed up the reconciliation and peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, which should lead to the organization of free, open, transparent and democratic elections;

6. **Takes note** of the recommendations made by the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council at its meeting held in Ouagadougou on 16 March 2007. In this respect, Council:

- **decides** to fully endorse the Ouagadougou Political Accord and **recommends** to the United Nations Security Council to endorse the said Accord,

- **recommends** to the United Nations Security Council the gradual drawdown of the impartial forces deployed in Côte d'Ivoire in line with the provisions for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Accord and for the restoration of peace and normalcy in the country,

- **encourages** the United Nations Security Council to visit West Africa, in particular, Côte d'Ivoire, with a view to giving added momentum to the peace processes in the region;

7. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary measures to provide the support of the AU to the current Chairperson of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS and to the Ivorian parties for the scrupulous implementation of the Ouagadougou Accord, within the time frame provided for, including in the follow-up and consultation mechanisms as provided for in Chapter VII of the Accord, namely the Permanent Framework for Consultation and the Evaluation and Accompaniment Committee;

8. **Invites** the United Nations Security Council to lend its support to the present decision and **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all the necessary measures to that effect;

9. **Takes note** of the communiqué adopted by the International Working Group (IWG) at its 13th meeting held on 2 March 2007;

10. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

Annex II to the letter dated 20 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Press statement on the situation in Somalia

The Peace and Security Council, at its meeting held on 19 March 2007, received a briefing from the Commission on the situation in Somalia and on the status of the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The Peace and Security Council welcomed the commencement of the deployment of AMISOM, following the arrival in Somalia of two battalions from Uganda. The Peace and Security Council commended the Government of Uganda for its efforts and commitment to the promotion of lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

The Peace and Security Council commended the people of Somalia for having welcomed AMISOM, which has no other objective than to support Somalia and its people in their efforts to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in their country. Against this background, the Peace and Security Council called upon all the people of Somalia to cooperate with and support AMISOM and condemned the isolated elements who carried out attacks against the Mission and their attempts to undermine the ongoing peace and reconciliation process in Somalia.

The Peace and Security Council commended the Government of Algeria for its support and those partners who have provided support for the deployment of AMISOM. It reiterated its appeal to the member States and partners of the AU to provide support to AMISOM. The Peace and Security Council appealed to the international community, including AU member States, to urgently provide financial and logistical support to the Commission and to those AU member States that have pledged troops to AMISOM, in order to facilitate the full deployment of AMISOM and ensure its sustenance.

The Peace and Security Council appealed to the member States and the United Nations to provide the necessary support to the planning cell established at the African Union Commission to oversee the deployment of AMISOM and to assist in the efforts aimed at mobilizing financial resources for the sustenance of the Mission.

The Peace and Security Council welcomed resolution 1744(2007) of 20 February 2007, by which the United Nations Security Council, *inter alia,* took note of its Communiqué of 19 January 2007 and decided to authorize

member States of the African Union to establish for a period of six months a mission in Somalia. The Peace and Security Council further welcomed the dispatch by the United Nations Secretary-General, as part of the implementation of resolution 1744(2007), of a technical assessment mission to the African Union headquarters and Somalia to report on the political and security situation and the possibility of a United Nations peacekeeping operation following the African Union's deployment.

The Peace and Security Council reiterated that AMISOM's objective is to support the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and other federal Institutions, as well as to contribute to the creation of a conducive environment for a political process as the most appropriate way for achieving lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia. In this respect, the Peace and Security Council underscored the need for the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) to embark on an all-inclusive and genuine process of dialogue and reconciliation within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter of Somalia.